

Cultural Council Minutes

January 20, 2010

Present: Amy Whittenburg, Bob Larson, GG Getz, Jeff Parks, Kathy Feek, Margit Moore, Sheila Mickool, Leah Kliger, Melissa Nelson, Cathy Heffron, Bhaj Townsend, Emily Hanna, Julie Huffman (staff), Ellen Miller-Wolfe (staff)

Absent: Rebecca Devere, Gwen Zierdt

MEETING MINUTES

One correction to the meeting minutes was proposed: Emily Hanna was approved as new member in absentia. Cathy Heffron made a motion to approve December's meeting minutes. Meeting minutes approved unanimously as corrected.

GUEST

Christopher Shainin was present from the Kirkland Arts Center to discuss the HAS (previously Holiday Art Sale) retail store. The initial plan was to be open for the holidays, but KAC had the opportunity to extend their short-term lease. HAS provides a unique year-round opportunity for artists in a great location. KAC is providing information to artists from analysis of sales. The store is completely run by volunteers. KAC would like to have KCC help with connecting artists so they can share resources, and appreciates the vision that came out of the strategic plan. The KAC would be happy to host collaboration events.

MINUTE FOR THE ARTS

Margit Moore presented the Minute for the Arts regarding the Cascadian Chorale. Amy proposed having the minute for the arts each meeting, and alternating between having a guest and going around with "your art-filled month". This change will be implemented.

Budget Update

Staff member Julie Huffman reported that the Council has approximately \$3500 left of funding, with \$1400 of it earmarked for community collaboration events.

OLD BUSINESS

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community Collaboration

Community collaboration met last night at St James espresso (if you call beforehand they will set up a table for you) and will meet regularly on the first Monday of the month. Members: Nora Carlson, Suzanne Kagen, Cathy, Leah, Amy and Bhaj. Leah (Chair of committee) reported that the 2 priorities were to create the listserv and put on networking events. They hope to launch the listserv by Feb 15th. Suzanne and Amy volunteered to be administrators of the listserv. Previously the board has decided that the administrators should be on the council, and Suzanne is not on the Council. Administration will require training, but should not be a great time commitment. Council discussed whether to allow Suzanne to be an administrator despite not

being a member, and agreed to it. Amy made a motion to accept Suzanne, motion passed unanimously.

Committee also discussed the next networking event. One idea is to have it at Laughs Comedy Spot in Totem Lake, with Ruben Barron possibly as the entertainment. He has attended our community collaboration meetings. Dates considered: March 22nd as the preferred date, 15th as backup and 29th as last choice. The topic being considered is social marketing for arts organizations and the committee is working on the name.

Foundation

GG (Chair of committee) reported that Leah, Sheila, Jeff, and Kathy are on the committee. Ellen Miller-Wolfe(staff) consulted with the City Attorney as to how the non-profit could work with the City. It could contract with the City (for staff support for example), and the Cultural Council could apply to the non-profit foundation for funds, but they must be separate entities. They will work on vision and mission. They are borrowing bylaws and guidelines from other entities, and will need an attorney and CPA to advise them once they have their goals set. Melissa suggested talking with the Lake WA School District, as there was recently a foundation set up to fund the schools. Sheila has agreed to fill out the paperwork. The committee will meet the 3rd Wednesday before the regular Council meeting.

Artilizing Kirkland

Kathy and Jeff (Co-Chairs) reported that Rebecca, GG, and Ellen are currently interested in the committee, as well as Margit. They also have a list of 17 other possible members. They have a plan to create a vision and present it at an initial meeting with potential partners. Their focus is revitalizing downtown, Totem Lake and Juanita, with the first priority being downtown. They would like to work with the empty storefront landlords to see what the possibilities are. Another idea is to look at closing streets, acquiring heaters, lights, awnings to bring people downtown even in bad weather. They will do interviews of business owners to find out what they would like to see in their underutilized space as they will be key partners in the process. Then they will plan the first meeting, and try to narrow the focus to two or three items that they can focus on. Their first interview will be with Les Utley of the Heathman Hotel, as he has offered to help. Council made suggestions of committee members. They will then schedule regular meeting times.

Margit has continued to look into the idea of busking and is planning to gather information that could be presented to the Chamber of Commerce and Kirkland Downtown Association. She is looking for general approval of the idea, then to bring it to the City Council. Leah offered to bring up the idea of busking to the new City Council members when she meets with them next week. Kathy suggested Thursday night as a good starting point. Because the City cannot regulate busking, the hope is to encourage it and provide suggested guidelines to ensure that those who might object due to noise or other concerns are brought into the process. Margit would like to see if the Wednesday Market would allow a booth for performers.

Public and Private Art

The library has a sculpture that they would like to place. The sculpture is owned by them, they have had it but it was somewhat hidden away before the renovation. They would like to place it in front of the library, between the driveway and walkway. Council is pleased that they are

siting it in a more visible place. Bob made motion and Bhaj seconded to encourage siting as discussed, and the motion passed unanimously.

Committee will host the Seattle Public Art administrator to discuss the cultural and political issues that arise around public art. Committee will invite the entire Council, as well as City staff. Also, they would like the City representative to come and discuss the issue of maintenance, as this was cut in the City's budget this year.

LAA Meeting

Location of the meeting has changed to the Kirkland Arts Center gallery. We will share introductory time with Studio East, and can bring up our main initiatives.

NEW BUSINESS

Report from the Chair

Leah reported that she will be meeting with the new City Council members next week, and the financial concerns of the Council. Council would like to meet with the full Council as a study session.